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CONFIDENTIALCLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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TOPIC Military Information from Koethen, Halle, Merseburg and Weissenfels

EVALUATION [REDACTED] 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT 13 to 26 April 1951 25X1DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 23 May 1951

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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Koethen.

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1. [REDACTED] the army unit which, in addition to an air force unit, was stationed at the airfield, left its quarters during the night of 20 April 1951. The unit was allegedly loaded together with tanks and artillery pieces. No army personnel were observed at the airfield and no vehicles were seen at the parking lots previously used by the army unit.

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2. On 22 April, a convoy of about 20 trucks was seen on the Koethen-Porst (M 52/D 96) road, moving toward Dessau. A similar convoy proceeding toward Rosslau was observed [REDACTED] in Dessau half an hour later. (1)

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Halle.

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3. Recruits were inspected at the Luftnachrichten Schule, Halle (M 52/D 92), on 13 April. The Fliegerhorst Kaserne was still occupied by about 1,500 troops, who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. About half of the barracks windows were lighted. Four T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] were seen at the fuel dump. T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] were seen in the garages on the edge of Mietleben airfield. [REDACTED]

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4. The Flak Kaserne, Noermnitz, still quartered about 5,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. On 13 April, a large-scale night exercise involving a rifle battalion, and elements of a reconnaissance and an AT artillery battalion, was held in the area between the barracks installation and Reepzig, south of the Saale River. Twenty-five T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] were seen in the garages of the installation on 14 April. Motor vehicles observed in the billeting area [REDACTED]

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Document No. 4
 No Change In Class. ☐
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 Class. Changed To: TS S (C)
 Date: 21-7-78

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5. On 13 April, the Reil Kaserne on Reilstrasse quartered about 300 troops who wore only black-bordered red epaulets. Source was unable to determine whether the troops in the installation had been exchanged or whether it was only a change of the service color. The equipment and motor vehicles previously observed with the troops who wore red-bordered green epaulets, were now observed with the troops who wore black-bordered red epaulets.

(2)

Merseburg.

6. On 22 April, the Flak Kaserne on Geusaerstrasse, Merseburg (M 52/D 91), quartered a unit with red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. About half the troops were recruits. Five officers and about 35 men were seen in the billeting area on that day. There was no training activity. A farmer living near the installation stated that most of the troops had left for Eisenach for training.

(4)

Weissenfels.

7. The Panzer Kaserne on the south side of Selauerstrasse, Weissenfels (M 52/J 99), was only very lightly occupied. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia.

8. Numerous troops wearing black-bordered red epaulets and some soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with signal insignia, were observed in the windows and on the lawns of the Infanterie Kaserne on the north side of Selauerstrasse.

9. 60 tanks crossed the Rathenau Bridge in Weissenfels on 22 April, heading northward. A convoy of 30 trucks, including some with billeting equipment, also crossed the Rathenau Bridge in a northerly direction on 26 April.

The convoy was escorted by two tanks.

(5)

Comments.

(1) The information from Koethen agrees with reports by several other sources that the 7th Gds Tank Div started moving to Letzling Heath in mid-April 1951.

(2) With the exception of the observations made in the Reil Kaserne, the information from Halle, indicates no changes.

(3) Same source reported in early April 1951 that the troops in the Reil Kaserne wore black-bordered red epaulets instead of red-bordered green epaulets previously worn by them.

Apparently the MVD unit which has been stationed there for a long time, was issued black-bordered red epaulets in early April 1951.

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


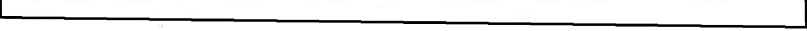
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- (4) The unidentified AT artillery brigade of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps is carried in the Flak Kaserne on Geusaerstrasse, Merseburg. No information has been received that the unit arrived at the Kindel troop training grounds near Eisenach.
- (5) Component units of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div are carried in the barracks installations of Selauerstrasse, Weissenfels. 
 The movement of the division to the Kindel troop training grounds was confirmed by another source. 


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